



Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2017

MOTION

Energy Companies, Executive Bonuses



Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to adopt the LNP's policy to freeze energy company executive bonuses until electricity prices decrease.

Tonight the motion is a simple choice: backing families and small businesses with lower electricity bills or backing bonuses for fat cat energy executives. The LNP is saying enough is enough. Executive bonuses should be frozen until such time as electricity prices decrease. We will end Labor's secret tax through electricity. We will change the incentives and remove the rewards for executives to gold plate the network, jack up prices and rip off families and small businesses. Enough is enough! Queenslanders are struggling under the record high electricity prices delivered by Labor. It is clear that the member for Yeerongpilly has learnt nothing from his recent stint on the backbench because of a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct. Yesterday this 'foolish minister'—that is how the head of the CCC described him—released a stinker of an electricity plan for summer condemned by most Queenslanders, yet he has been criticising the LNP for taking real action and promising to freeze executive bonuses. He even tried at one stage to blame farmers for high electricity prices and I am sure the other—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. That is clearly a misrepresentation. I take personal offence to that comment with regard to farmers and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has asked for a withdrawal. Member.

Mr HART: I withdraw. This minister has a habit of misleading the parliament, of misleading—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. I find that deeply offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr HART: I withdraw. The minister has a habit of misleading the people of Queensland. He misleads the people of Queensland every time he talks about electricity prices and the people of Queensland do not believe him. Yesterday during an answer to a question without notice the minister said that our policy—and it is a pretty straightforward policy—to freeze electricity executive bonuses would save one cent per week—one cent per week! The minister has completely misinterpreted this policy. He has not even bothered to read it. This is not about saving executive bonuses; this is about putting downward pressure on electricity prices, and I say that slowly so the minister can possibly absorb it. This is all about putting downward pressure on electricity prices. This is about changing the culture inside our energy companies such as Powerlink, Energex, Ergon, Energy Queensland, Stanwell, CS Energy—all of them. This is about changing the culture.

These executives earn \$70,000, \$80,000 or \$90,000 a year in bonuses. That would be very similar to what most Queenslanders would actually earn in an entire year. That is why we need to put pressure on executives to put downward pressure on electricity prices. The minister will jump up in a minute and tell us that there has been no problem with electricity prices. If we look at the AEMO data

board we will see that the minister has been telling the people of Queensland that we have had the cheapest prices in Australia since March. That is not true. If we look at the AEMO website we will see that every day this month except for the first of this month we have had the highest prices in the NEM, the National Energy Market. Unlike what the minister has been telling the people of Queensland, we have had the highest prices. In fact, on the same page—and I will table this for the benefit of the House—it shows that in September we had the second highest prices in Australia.

Tabled paper: AEMO document titled 'Data Dashboard' [\[2003\]](#).

This government has done nothing to put downward pressure on electricity prices. This should be supported by all members of the House. This policy will put downward pressure on electricity prices by putting our executives under pressure for that downward pressure.

(Time expired)